

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all versions and listings of the claims in this application.

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) The use of aqueous dispersions comprising at least one at least partially neutralized ethylene copolymer wax selected from ~~among~~ ethylene copolymer waxes which comprise, as comonomers in copolymerized form,

(A) from 26.1 to 39% by weight of at least one ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid and

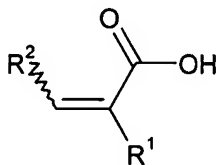
(B) from 61 to 73.9% by weight of ethylene, and ethylene copolymer waxes which comprise, in copolymerized form,

(A') from 20.5 to 38.9% by weight of at least one ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid,

(B') from 60 to 79.4% by weight of ethylene and

(C') from 0.1 to 15% by weight of at least one ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic ester, as auxiliaries for wastewater treatment.

2. (Currently amended) The use according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one~~ the ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid (A) ~~or~~ (A') has the formula I,

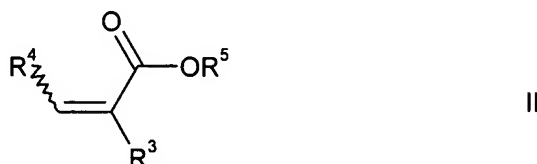


where the radicals are defined as follows:

R¹ is selected from among hydrogen and unbranched or branched C₁-C₁₀-alkyl, and

R² is selected from among hydrogen and unbranched or branched C₁-C₁₀-alkyl.

3. (Currently amended) The use according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein ~~at least one~~ the ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic ester has the formula II,



where the radicals are defined as follows:

R^3 is selected from among hydrogen and unbranched or branched C_1 - C_{10} -alkyl,

R^4 is selected from among hydrogen and unbranched or branched C_1 - C_{10} -alkyl.

R^5 is selected from among unbranched or branched C_1 - C_{10} -alkyl and C_3 - C_{12} -cycloalkyl.

4. (Currently amended) The use according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 2, wherein R^1 is hydrogen or methyl.

5. (Currently amended) The use according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 2, wherein R^2 is hydrogen.

6. (Currently amended) The use according to ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 3, wherein R^3 is hydrogen or methyl.

7. (Currently amended) The use according to ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 3, wherein R^4 is hydrogen.

8. (Currently amended) The use according to ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein the at least one ethylene copolymer wax ~~or waxes have~~ has been at least partially neutralized by ~~means of~~ a basic alkali metal compound or an ~~at least one~~ amine.

9. (Currently amended) The use according to ~~any of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, wherein the at least one ethylene copolymer wax ~~or waxes have~~ has been at least partially neutralized by an amine, where at least one amine is selected from ~~among~~ ammonia, N-alkylethanamines, alkanolamines ~~and~~ or polyamines.

10. (Currently amended) A process for the treatment of wastewater, which comprises treating wastewater with one or more dispersions ~~as set forth in any of claims 1 to 9~~ of claim 1.

11. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 10, wherein solids which settle or float are separated off after the treatment of the wastewater with the one or more aqueous dispersions.

12. (Currently amended) A process for preparing aqueous dispersions ~~as set forth in any of claims 1 to 9~~ of claim 1, which comprises dispersing the one or more ethylene copolymer waxes in water in the presence of at least one basic substance.

13. (Currently amended) An aqueous dispersion comprising at least one ~~at least~~ partially neutralized ethylene copolymer wax selected from ~~among~~ ethylene copolymer waxes which comprise, as comonomers in copolymerized form,

(B) from 26.1 to 39% by weight of at least one ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid and

(C) from 61 to 73.9% by weight of ethylene,
and ethylene copolymer waxes which comprise, in copolymerized form,

(A') from 20.5 to 38.9% by weight of at least one ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid,

(B') from 60 to 79.4% by weight of ethylene and

(C') from 0.1 to 15% by weight of at least one ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic ester.

14. (Currently amended) An ethylene copolymer wax comprising, as comonomers in copolymerized form,

~~(D) from 26.1 to 39% by weight of at least one ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid and (E) from 61 to 73.9% by weight of ethylene.~~

15. (Currently amended) An ethylene copolymer wax comprising, as comonomers in copolymerized form,

~~(A') from 20.5 to 38.9% by weight of at least one ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid,~~
acid,
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(B) — ~~from~~ 79.4 to 60% by weight of ethylene and
(C) — ~~from~~ 0.1 to 15% by weight of at least one ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic ester.

16. (New) The use according to claim 2, wherein at least one ethylene copolymer wax has been at least partially neutralized by an amine, where at least one amine is selected from ammonia, N-alkylethanolamines, alkanolamines or polyamines.

17. (New) The use according to claim 3, wherein at least one ethylene copolymer wax has been at least partially neutralized by an amine, where at least one amine is selected from ammonia, N-alkylethanolamines, alkanolamines or polyamines.

18. (New) An ethylene copolymer wax comprising, as comonomers in copolymerized form:

26.1 to 39% by weight acrylic acid or methacrylic acid, and 61 to 73.9% by weight ethylene; or

20.5 to 38.9% by weight of at least one ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid,
79.4 to 60% by weight of ethylene and 0.1 to 15% by weight of at least one ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic ester.

19. (New) The ethylene copolymer of claim 18, comprising a melt flow rate of 5 to 20 g/10 min. measured at 160°C under a load of 325 g in accordance with EN ISO 1133 and an acid number of 115 to 230 mgKOH/g of wax in accordance with DIN 53402.

20. (New) The ethylene copolymer of claim 19, comprising a density from 0.92 to 0.99 g/cm³ in accordance with DIN 53429.